

1. Incident Name		2. Operational Period (Date/Time) From: To:		RESOURCES AT RISK SUMMARY [April-May] ICS 232-OS	
3. Environmentally-Sensitive Areas and Wildlife Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location	Site Issues		
1		Grays Harbor, general	Shorebird migration peaking from mid-April through mid-May with up to one million birds passing through during this time period. Significant concentrations of migrating waterfowl and marine birds through April, then diminishing in May. Gray whale migration at its peak with many whales just offshore or dipping into the bay to feed. Intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats critical to wide range of fish, shellfish & wildlife species. Important nursery area for Dungeness Crab. Large numbers of harbor seals present. The estuary is important nursery and foraging area for juvenile salmonids including stocks of coastal cutthroat trout; winter and summer steelhead; fall, spring, and summer chinook; fall chum and coho.		
2		Bowerman Basin (Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)	Largest shorebird concentration area in Grays Harbor. Very high public visitation during the shorebird migration.		
		Damon Point	One of only a few nesting sites for Snowy Plover in Washington. Birds typically arrive in later part of April to begin nesting. Streaked Horned Larks (state and federal candidate species) currently nesting. Some herring spawning habitat on north shore of spit, with eggs or larvae still likely to be present in April.		
		Oyhut Wildlife Area (WDFW)	This 700 acre wildlife area, adjacent to Damon Point, contains a variety of habitats important to fish & wildlife: dunes, saltmarsh, mudflats, and sloughs. In recent years, Snowy Plovers have nested near the wastewater treatment facility at the western edge of the Wildlife Area. This is also prime feeding habitat for migrating shorebirds and other wildlife.		
		South Bay	Concentrations of wintering and migrating waterfowl & shorebirds. Herring spawning area (Feb-Mar) with eggs and/or larvae still present in April. Eelgrass beds. Salt marsh habitat.		
3		Grays Harbor mouth	Significant concentration area for feeding seabirds (loons, cormorants, gulls, alcids, etc.). Migrating gray whales frequently feed just inside entrance to bay.		
4		Sandy beaches just outside harbor mouth	Large numbers of shorebirds present (dunlin, western sandpipers, sanderling, black-bellied plover, etc.). Important razor clam area. Heavily used public recreation area.		
<p>Narrative:</p> <p>Habitat Concerns: Intertidal & shallow subtidal habitats, eelgrass beds, native salt marsh, coastal beaches.</p> <p>Fish & Shellfish Concerns: Extensive shellfish beds inside Grays Harbor. Coastal beaches are important razor clam habitat and nearshore waters are rich in clams and Dungeness Crab. Grays Harbor is important nursery and foraging area for juvenile salmonids. Herring spawning in South Bay and at Damon Point.</p> <p>Wildlife Concerns: Grays Harbor is a shorebird site of world significance, supporting up to 1 million birds over the course of the spring migration (April & May), both inside the bay and on nearby coastal beaches. Damon Point provides critical nesting habitat for snowy plovers and streaked horned larks. Large concentrations of marine birds and migrating waterfowl likely to be present in April. Large numbers of harbor seals present, with pupping beginning in May. Peregrine falcons present during shorebird migration. Bald eagles nesting around periphery of bay. Migrating gray whales likely to be feeding in mouth of bay.</p> <p>T&E Species Concerns: Snowy Plover (FT), Marbled Murrelet (FT), Bald Eagle (FT)</p>					
4. Archaeo-cultural and Socio-economic Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location	Site Issues		
		Grays Harbor National Wildlife	Huge concentrations of migrating shorebirds. Heavy public use during		

		Refuge (Bowerman Basin)	spring migration.
		Numerous sites of cultural significance to local tribes	These sites need to be identified through consultation with local tribes and the Wash. State Archaeologist
		Commercial shellfish beds	
		North Bay (Grays Harbor)	DNR oyster leases to private parties on State-owned aquatic lands
		North side of Protection Island	Recreational clam digging/shellfish used by locals
<p>Narrative: <u>Numerous culturally sensitive areas exist along the shorelines of Grays Harbor. Any land-based spill response work that involves soil or sediment disturbance must be approved by a qualified archaeologist prior to initiation. Land-based spill response equipment, such as vacuum trucks, must stay on hardened surfaces until the area has been evaluated by an archaeologist.</u></p>			
5. Prepared by: (Environmental Unit Leader)		Date/Time	
RESOURCES AT RISK SUMMARY		June 2000	ICS 232-OS

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